

The Dessert TO THE TRUE AMERICAN.

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VOL. I.

CAROLINE COURTNEY.

A ROMANCE.

(Continued from our last.)

IN vain the daughter of Courtney pleaded her innocence. The incensed Baron turned a deaf ear to her protestations, reproached her with all the vehemence of unrestrained passion, and on his departure affirmed, with a solemn oath, that not until young Fitz-Alban became no longer an object of his suspicion, would he permit her to wander beyond the limits of the gallery leading from her own chamber to that of Winifred, to whose charge he consigned the unoffending, and unfortunate object of his displeasure.

Many revolving and mournful days passed away in sorrow and confinement, before Caroline again beheld her father: but, on his next visit his manner appeared more consistent with that endearing title, than she had ever before experienced. Emboldened by that manner, kneeling, she ventured to implore forgiveness, and even to entreat a blessing. The Baron paused, and gazed upon her in expressive silence, and with a deep drawn sigh bade her be at peace, as he himself wished to be. Then grasping her hand, he hastened from her presence, while her tear-full eye followed him till he reached the stair-case, and was lost for ever to her sight.

His looks, his too evident agitation alarmed her; lost in lonely musings, the time passed away till the hour of midnight was given by the deep-toned bell of the castle clock; an unusual weight on her mind denied the approach of sleep. She proceeded to the gallery. The beautiful appearance of the morn engaged her attention, while the fantastic shadows its beams occasioned, as they illuminated, with visionary light, the gothic windows of the building, for a time, relieved her bosom from extreme oppression. Returning to her chamber, she paused at the door to take another view of the gallery, when, to her astonishment, her eye glanced on a letter which lay on the floor; she took it up. It was addressed to the Baron Courtney. Caroline paused upon the impropriety of examining its purport, but the sudden and recent change she had observed in the person whose name was on it, his perturbation, his down-cast look, his unwonted tenderness, all conspired to raise her curiosity, and prevail on her at length, without his knowledge or permission, to peruse a father's letter.

If, thus situated, Caroline might be said to have infringed upon the rigid rules of honour of duty, Caroline was sufficiently punished for her offence. The dreadful scroll was the work of the domestic Osborne, long in the con-

fidence of his cruel, his unprincipled master. Its contents might well create terror and dismay—they were penned—by a MURDERER! In characters, but too legible, the mystery of her mother's death was at length unfolded.

In a state, little short of distraction, she threw herself on the floor, and bathed the letter with her tears, then rising, she determined on seeking her parent. She hastened to the stair-case—her further progress was checked by a door barred and bolted. She recollects she was a prisoner, a recollection replete with horror; again she perused the dreadful lines—“The hand that removed one object of your displeasure, is equally ready to execute your commands on another. The lady Matilda is at rest; pronounce the sentence, and the lady Caroline shall offend no more.”

In awful suspense the time passed on, till the bell in sullen tone announced the third hour; all was still, and Caroline was absorbed in thought; presently she heard a foot-step, by its sound approaching the door of her chamber: fear forbade utterance, and now, by the reflection of a lamp glimmering out its last—she discovered, Osborne!

Seizing her unresisting arm, he muttered—“Attempt to raise alarm, and I silence you forever. Go with me, but fear not. You may sleep as soundly in Fernly Wood, lady, as others have done before you.” Osborne, on saying this, applied the ruffian mode of ensuring silence on the part of Caroline, and instantly proceeded to where two mules were in waiting behind Courtney Castle, to which she was no more to return.

Through paths, solitary and rude as the mind can possibly conceive, they travelled on for several hours. At length they halted at the entrance of a cavern, situated deep in the entangled mazes of Fernly Wood. After pacing numberless intricate and gloomy windings, their course was stopped by an iron door, of vast dimensions. “Now lady,” exclaimed Osborne, in an exulting tone, “You find yourself where human aid can never reach you, and from whence flight is impossible.” Saying this, he applied his lips to a hollow tube, fixed in the door, and sounded a signal to those on the other side.

Presently a loud and continued shout expressive of riot and revelry, assailed the startled ear of Caroline, who now, recovering from a stupor, she was seized with on her departure from the castle, and, from despair, collecting fortitude, she turned to her savage conductor and said, “On this side of your dread abode let instant death terminate my horrors!”

Before Osborne could reply, the door by means of a spring, suddenly opened, and the glare of numerous and distant torches illuminated the cavern.

Osborne conducted, or rather forced Caroline to a seat at a board, liberally supplied with the varieties of luxury and intemperance, and at which were placed a party of banditti. At the call of their captain they instantly arose and filled each his goblet to *The fair Stranger*. This ceremony was succeeded by loud and repeated acclamations, while the shaggy pillars, which supported the ample roof of the cavern, shook to the shouts of its ferocious inmates.

Remaining steadfast in her refusal to partake of the banquet, Osborne said, “I would advise you, lady, to become resigned to a better fate than was intended for you. By this time the Baron thinks you are no more: forget, therefore, such a father, and henceforth consider me as your protector.”

“With these brave men I have long associated. The captain and myself intend, before many months are past, to leave our places to those worthy of filling them, as our share alone, arising from plunder lately obtained, has enabled us to quit an employ in which we have hazarded our lives, and sacrificed many. Therefore take comfort, fear no violence from any here, while I am away presume not to question, be obedient, and be happy.”

This daring address was received with indignation and horror. Osborne waited not a reply, but left the cavern, and repaired to the Baron.

In a few days it was given out that the lady Caroline had died suddenly; funeral rites were again performed. The proud, unbending man now left alone and unblest, was sensible that doubts existed in the breasts of many, but equally well he knew that no tongue would presume to utter them.

To return to Caroline. The recent declaration of Osborne removed apprehensions of insult from the ruffian band, who now to pursue their nightly work of rapine and of murder, had left her to herself.

Alone, in a place too the aspect of which was sufficient to appal the stoutest heart, still fear assailed not that of Caroline. As she looked around on the vastness of her subterraneous abode, and its dark and deep recesses, her thoughts were engaged on the martyred Matilda, and in the anguish of her soul she exclaimed aloud, “Look down, sainted mother, on thy child, thy Caroline; the thought of a father prevents my sending up the prayer to all-righteous heaven—“REVENGE A PARENT'S MURDER!

The last word caught up by Echo, resounded through the cavern and its numerous windings, till it died away in awful whispers. Caroline remained on her knees, and listened to those whispers, till she nearly persuaded herself they were not the effect of her own utterance. At length all was silent! and she arose and wandered, absorbed in bitter reflections, beyond the light reflected by a flame issuing from a large

lamp, suspended by a chain, and which, (horrid to relate!) was fed by a prepared portion of the remains of unhappy objects who had fallen beneath the hand of assassins! remorseless wretches, who had yet suffered no one to escape from their horrid confines. How truly dreadful that stage of guilt, where the perpetrator flies to its last extremity for only temporary safety, and to stifle but for a season the voice of conviction.

At the extremity of one of the recesses, her farther progress was impeded by a door secured on the outside with strong bolts; a circumstance which roused her from her reverie, and induced her to quit a spot that chilled every sense with alarm. At this moment a deep sigh, followed with "Where will my miseries end?"—suggested an idea that the voice was that of some hopeless wretch confined for sacrifice, and that now was the time to summon all her fortitude.

With a trembling hand she drew the bolts, opened the yielding door, and beheld, extended on a couch, the figure of a woman, who, on Caroline's approach, buried her countenance in the pillow, uttered a shriek, and cried "Leave me! inhuman monster, leave! The night flame still exists, and loathed dawn is yet far distant."—Caroline knew the accents, and sunk down by the side of Matilda!

[To be concluded in our next.]

THE SIMILE.

I have often been at a loss to what to compare the human mind. I am now perfectly convinced that it resembles nothing on earth so much as a *Wind-Mill*.

A Wind-Mill:

Yes; the grinding is the exercise of the faculties; the flour is the produce of these; and the clapper is the representative of the tongue; the machinery of the mill is silent unless set in motion by the wind, and genius is inactive until impelled by the breeze of passion.

The wind-mill, shattered by the storm from its too exalted situation, shall represent the man of *spirit*, borne away by his tumultuous passion, and his air-drawn castles, like clouds before the wind.

The empty coxcomb, whose words out-run his ideas, or rather, whose words serve to shew he has no ideas at all, may also be included in the same similitude. The mill never makes more noise than when it is entirely without a *grist*.

But to go still farther, the mill shall not only represent the mind of man, but it shall also include his character.

The tame, the dull and the insipid, who glide with placid listlessness through life, stand represented by the mill, when gently agitated by a southern breeze.

The *malevoli*, who whirl with busy anxiousness through every scene, only to destroy the peace, and grind the hearts, of those with whom they converse, will find their representative in the mill, when strongly agitated by the northern winds.

The *peccant*, who, acting upon the mill, and blasting every thing as it passes, shall typify the sullen, the discontented, and the morose; while the western breeze, loaded with health and fragrance, temperate and beneficent, shall represent the generous and humane.

The mill also—but it is necessary to remember a simile may be carried too far.

Fantastic hopes and feverish dreams—

ANTIPATHIES.

"Some men there are love not a gaping pig;
" Some that are mad, if they behold a cat;
" ----- for affections
" Masters of passion, sway it to the mood
" Of what it likes or loathes." *Shakespeare's M. of Venice*

UNDER this article it is our intention merely to relate some very remarkable antipathies, and not to inquire into their causes, that being a subject which we must leave to the more profound scholars.

A lady, a native of France, would faint on seeing boiled lobsters. Some other persons of the same country would experience the same inconvenience from the smell of roses, though particularly partial to the odour of jonquils and tuberoses.

I have read of a gentleman who would fall into convulsions at the sight of a carp.

Erasmus, though a native of Rotterdam, had such an aversion to fish, that the smell of it gave him a fever.

Ambrose Pare mentions a gentleman, who never could see an eel without fainting.

Joseph Scaliger, and Peter Abono, never could drink milk.

Cardan was particularly disgusted at the sight of eggs.

Uladislaus, king of Poland, could not bear to see apples.

If an apple was shewn to Chesne, secretary to Francis I. a prodigious quantity of blood would issue from his nose.

Henry III. of France could never sit in a room with a cat.

The Duke of Schomberg had the same kind of antipathy.

A gentleman in the court of the Emperor Ferdinand would bleed at the nose on hearing the mewing of a cat, however great the distance might be from him.

M. de Lancre, in his *Tableau de l'Inconstance de toutes choses*, gives an account of a very sensible man, who was so terrified at seeing an hedgehog, that for two years he imagined his bowels were gnawed by such an animal.

In the same book we find an account of a very brave officer, who never dared to look at a mouse, it would so terrify him, unless he had his sword in his hand. M. de Lancre says he knew him perfectly well.

There are some persons who cannot bear to see spiders, and others who eat them as a luxury.

Mr. Vangheim, a great huntsman, in Hanover, would faint, or, if he had sufficient time, would run away, at the sight of a roast pig.

The philosopher Chryippus had such an aversion to be reverenced, that if any one saluted him he would fall down.

John Rol, a gentleman in Alcantara, would swoon on hearing the word *lana* (wool) pronounced, although his cloak was made of wool.

A NUT.

A young sophomore, more notorious for his amours than his attention to the muses, courted a fair dame by the name of Sally Love. As soon as this came to his provident guardian's ears, he wrote him an affectionate letter advising him to quit her as soon as he could with honor, and then court an alliance with Sally.

THE HUMORIST.

A young fellow was extolling a lady's beauty very highly, and one of his companions allowed she had beauty, except that she had a bad set of teeth; very true, said the first, "But she is a fine woman in spite of her teeth."

A gentleman, desirous of exhibiting striking proofs of his exuberant imagination and pompous language, was paying a very sensible and amiable young lady some very far fetched compliment—comparing her to the sun in its meridian glory, and himself to a dim taper glimmering faintly beside it—forgetting in the mean while to show common politeness to the lady, by whose side he sat *with his hat on*.—Another gentleman went up to him, and, while he lifted off his hat, said, "Sir, I will snuff the dim taper that may burn the brighter."

One seeing his friend wear a threadbare cloak, asked him, if it was not sleepy? Why do you ask? said the other; because, said he, I think it has not had a nap these seven years.

A German officer, meeting with a gentleman in New-York, with whom he supposed himself very well acquainted; after shaking him very cordially and earnestly by the hand, he stared in the gentleman's face with some degree of surprise, as doubtful whether he had made a mistake in the identity of the person, and addressed him thus: "Pon my word, I tot I wil know you; but I wil pe kill now weder it be you, or your prader; if 'tis you, I'm glad for see you, if 'tis your prader, I peg your parton."

Cical, said an English gentleman the other day to a Frenchman, is scarce in France. It may be so, was the answer, but you must be convinced that at this time there is no want of *Fire* in that country.

THE MEDLEY.

"A thing of Shreds and Patches."

IT is the interest of every man who wishes to be happy himself to endeavour to make others so.—Are your endeavours unsuccessful?—No matter, you have done your duty; and your conscience will administer consolation to sweeten your disappointment.

When those who are possessed of affluent fortunes, employ a considerable part of their wealth to relieve the distresses of their fellow-creatures, they certainly employ it in a manner truly laudable; and highly worthy of imitation. When those who have but narrow incomes, and even deny themselves many comforts which they might enjoy, in order to feed the hungry, and clothe the naked, they merit a double share of praise, because they give more incontestable proofs of their philanthropy and benevolence. The mere liberality of the hand does not absolutely denote the generosity of the mind. True generosity does not depend so much upon the gift, as upon the feelings of the giver. Wealth and generosity are by no means incompatible, but a man may have a large store of the former in his possession, without a grain of the latter in his composition; by being liberal we may acquire fame; by being generous we deserve it.

TRUE CHRISTIANITY.—Lewis IX. King of France, was found instructing a poor kitchen boy, and being asked why he would do so, answered, "The meanest have a soul as precious as my own, and bought with the same blood of Christ."

THE HAPPINESS OF EXPLANATION.—A Gentleman of distinction, in Charleton, entertained a valet, who had formerly studied surgery in Paris. In the act of shaving, the barber-surgeon accidentally mistook the direction of his razor. The gentleman starting up, in a passion, exclaims, "D—n ye, you scoundrel, you have cut my chin!" "No, Monsieur," replies the scientific shaver, and with the most determined composure, "I have only excoriated the *Epidermis*!"

CATO seriously maintained, that no man could be handsome, unless he was virtuous. The Stoicks thought they did not represent the excellence of virtue, if they did not comprehend in the very notion of it, all *possible* perfections; that it was not only transcendantly beautiful in itself, but that it made the very body amiable, and banished deformity in the person where it resided.

HUMAN nature has its frailties, and its stability: perfection is not the lot of any man—he is more than mortal, who is "chaste as ice," or "pure as snow."—There is a necessity that vice should exist, in some degree; otherwise, we should never know how to estimate the truly great and good character justly.

DIOGENES seeing a stranger in Lacedemon at great pains to prepare his marters, and decorate himself for an approaching festival: "Pray, Sir, said he, what may you be about? Do you know that every day is a festival to a good mind!"—He compared this world to a Temple dignified by the Deity, which man is so constituted, as to be under a moral obligation to demean himself with integrity, as always under the inspection of an all-seeing God.

And thus they cant the self same ditty,

equal in size and quality to any in the
UNITED STATES.



FOR THE DESSERT.

THE FOLLOWING WAS WRITTEN
BY A GENTLEMAN ON BEING ASKED;
"WHAT IS LOVE."

What is Love? My muse shall answer,
And inform you if she can fix.
'Tis a passion, 'tis a pain,
Which we cherish, yet complain:
'Tis a soft, exquisite anguish,
Which delights, with which we languish:
Full of torments, full of joys,
Now it pleases, now annoys:
'Tis a scorching tickling flame,
All may feel, but none can name:
'Tis a sympathy of souls,
That every jarring thought controls:
'Tis nature's child, yet full of art:
'Tis something, that inflames the heart:
'Tis now a Heaven, and now a hell;
'Tis what no mortal e'er could tell:
But would you all its nature find,
Drop my verse, and read the mind;
Or, what better still, may tell it,
Look at Della, and you feel it.

W.

FOR THE DESSERT.

THE WANDERER.

Loft to myself, to fame, to glory dead,
Hapless to distant climes I carelessly roam;
My spirits sunk, my love of honor fled:
A wretched exile from my native home.
The roof paternal now no more invites,
My weary footsteps, to a sweet repose:
No more a father's voice, my ear delights,
Nor tenderness maternal soothes my woes.
The fruitful fields, where I so often stray'd;
Those blooming meads, my earliest child hood knew,
The pine top'd mountain, and the flinty glade,
Have sunk, retiring from my longing view.
The stream which foaming thro' the rocky vale,
In many an eddy form'd the trout's retreat,
No more, the sportive wanderer shall call,
Again to practice the well feign'd deceit.
Along its rugged, woody banks, no more,
In pensive sadness, musing, shall I stray:
Nor listen to the hoarse, tumultuous roar,
Of torrents, tumbling thro' their rough, rude way.
No pine, high tow'ring on the mountain's edge;
Nor hemlock, trembling on the giddy verges;
Nor humble laurels, creeping o'er the ledge;
Nor darkening elms, their shadows spreading large:
Nor yet the lawn, nor gently purling rill,
With lucid current, winding thro' the glade;
Where village boys, oft place the whirling mill,

And shortful in its limpid channel wade:
These can no more, salute my gladden'd eyes;
Dear native scenes, of innocence, and ease:
But yet in memory, shall ye often rise,
With fond regret, and mournfully shall please:
But 'tis not absence only, wrecks my peace,
Exile alone I cheerfully could bear:
But other pangs, that never know to cease,
Afflict the wanderer, and excite the tear.
Such pangs as love without a hope inspires,
The keenest torture of confirm'd despair,
With cruel anguish, all my bosom fires,
And loads with misery, more than I can bear.
Condemn'd to gloomy silence, I repine,
And waste my moaning, on the unconscious air:
Till heaven commands, existence, to resign,
And lose with life, remembrance of the fair.
For never shall she know the griefs I feel;
A tale like mine, she never ought to hear;
To gain her pity, I would not reveal
Sorrows, which claim the tribute of a tear.
But from her charms remote, unknown I'll live,
And seek in rural scenes and shades, relief;
Absence, and time, their friendly aid shall give;
And kind forgetfulness, assuage my grief.
To that kind plenty Providence has given,
I'll own each son of sorrow for an heir:
And like the proxy, of all bounteous heaven,
Will soften misery, and will wipe the tear.

W.

FOR THE DESSERT.

TO MARIA.

Welcome! Maria, to this lonely grove
Sacred to virtue, innocence, and peace
Here ariel songsters chaunt their notes of love
And bid the mind's tumultuous passion cease,
Here soothe thy care, and here thy woes forego,
Thy breast the seat of replete happiness,
With true content thy blissful face shall glow
And no sad thoughts thy gentle heart distress,
But should misfortunes ever be thy lot,
Ah! guard thy breast against the fiend despair;
With me retire to some sequester'd cot,
Our daily toils, our humble labours share.

EDWIN.

ON THE SHORTNESS OF LIFE.

WREN, gently swelling from the genial root,
The buds of balmy Spring begin to shoot,
The eye, inquisitive, from day to day,
Observes the progress of the solar ray;
And, as the warmth, and vernal airs inspire,
The leaf, expanding, glows with rich attire;
The insect tribes, upon its glossy vest,
Their hours of pastime o'er, return to rest,
Depose their eggs, in velvet safety lie,
And nature fully satiate, buzz, and die.
Thus we, poor actors, on this transient stage,
Pass a short interval from youth to age;
Can scarcely con our mortal lesson o'er,
Before we languish, sigh, and are no more.

THE ROSE.

SWEET child of Summer! balmy Rose! 'tis thine,
To perfume, far and wide, the genial air,
To deck with sweets the Hymenial shrine,
And make the lovely bride appear more fair.
Thy nat'ral rouge infuse on either cheek;
On either lip thy vermeil tints impale,
That crimson bathfulness with health may speak,
And lillies join in contact with the rose,
And, sure, that union must be deem'd divine,
When, on one face, such rival beauties shine.

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